Pakanha language

Pakanha (Bakanha), or **Ayabakan**, is a nearly extinct Paman language spoken on the Cape York Peninsula of Queensland, Australia. In 1981, there were 10 speakers of the language, originally spoken by the aboriginal Pakanha people in the central part of the Cape York Peninsula.[1]

Contents

Pakanha	
Ayabakan	
Native to	Australia
Region	Cape York Peninsula, Queensland
Ethnicity	Ayabakan
Extinct	uncertain, 10 reported 1981[1] not reported since[2]

Language family	Pama–Nyungan
	 • Paman
	   • North Cape York
	     • Wik
	       • **Pakanha**

Dialects	Western Ayapathu
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	pkn
Glottolog	paka1251 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/paka1251)[3]
AIATSIS[2]	Y64 (https://collection.aiatsis.gov.au/austlang/language/Y64) Pa Y181 (https://collection.aiatsis.gov.au/austlang/language/Y181) W Ayapathu
Coordinates: 14°30′S 142°25′E	

Phonology

Vowels

Pakanha has 5 vowel qualities:[4]

	Short			Long		
	Front	**Central**	**Back**	**Front**	**Central**	**Back**
Close	**i** /i/		**u** /u ~ ʊ/	**ii** /iː/		**uu** /uː/
Mid	**e** /e ~ ẹ/		**o** /o ~ ɔ/	**ee** /ɛː/		**oo** /oː/
Open		**a** /a ~ ə/			**aa** /aː/	

Consonants

Pakanha has 15 consonants:[4]

	Peripheral		Laminal		Apical		Glottal
	Bilabial	**Velar**	**Palatal**	**Dental**	**Alveolar**	**Retroflex**	
Plosive	**p** /p/	**k** /k/	**ch** /c/	**th** /t̪/	**t** /t/		**'** /ʔ/
Nasal	**m** /m/	**ng** /ŋ/	**ny** /ɲ/	**nh** /n̪/	**n** /n/		
Trill					**rr** /r/		
Approximant	**w** /w/		**y** /j/		**l** /l/	**r** /ɻ/	

Vocabulary/Topical Index

The following is a sample of words from a comparative wordlist/topical index produced by Philip Hamilton.[5] The Pakanha words are accompanied by corresponding words from the distantly related Uw Olkola and Uw Oykangand languages:

(P) = Pakanha, (Olk) = Uw Olkola, (Oyk) = Uw Oykangand.

The Body:

- Body
  - nhangka (P)
  - idnhan (Olk, Oyk)
  - elpan (Olk)
- Head
  - wele (P)
  - eka (Olk)
  - e.g. (Oyk)
- Fontanel
  - wele ngangka (P)
  - ek ulpar (Olk)
  - e.g. ulbar (Oyk)
- Skull
  - yenkan (P)
  - ek obher (Olk)
  - e.g. opher (Oyk)

In popular culture

The Pakanha word for the eastern grey kangaroo, *kucha*, was used as the name of a tribe on the second season of the American reality television series, Survivor in 2001.[6]

References

1. Pakanha (https://www.ethnologue.com/16/show_language/pkn) at *Ethnologue* (16th ed., 2009)
2. Y64 (https://collection.aiatsis.gov.au/austlang/language/Y64) Pakanh at the Australian Indigenous Languages Database, Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (see the info box for additional links)
3. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Pakanha" (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/paka1251). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
4. Hamilton, Philip (1998), *Uw Oykangand and Uw Olkola Multimedia Dictionary* (http://reocities.com/Athens/delphi/2970/index.html), retrieved 20 January 2011
5. Hamilton, Philip (1998), *Uw Oykangand and Uw Olkola Multimedia Dictionary* (https://web.archive.org/web/20120323155530/http://reocities.com/Athens/delphi/2970/dict2.htm), archived from the original (http://reocities.com/Athens/delphi/2970/dict2.htm) on 23 March 2012, retrieved 22 February 2011
6. https://web.archive.org/web/20121017120459/http://www.oocities.org/athens/delphi/2970/kangaroo.htm